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1. A method for extending the capabilities of a web server, comprising the steps of:

 sending a request from a client to the web server,
the request including an address for a code module needed
to service the request;

 if the code module is unavailable at the web server,
having the web server use the address to request the code
10 module from a publishing server;

 installing the code module at the web server; and
 performing the request at the web server using the
installed code module.

20 2. The method as described in Claim 1 further
including the step of serving the code module from the
publishing server to the web server.

3. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the
20 address is a URL.

4. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the
code module is unavailable to the web server because the
web server does not support the code module.

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5. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the code module is unavailable to the web server because the server cannot access the code module.

5 6. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the request includes a unique identifier for the code module.

7. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the code module conforms to a specific transformation API of
10 the web server.

8. The method as described in Claim 1 further including the steps of:

15 having the publishing server sign the code module with a key;

serving the signed code module from the publishing server to the web server; and

verifying authenticity of the code module prior to the installing step.

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9. A method for enabling a web client to add functionality to a web server on an as-needed basis, comprising the steps of:

5 during a given Web transaction, uploading a code module from the client to the web server; and

at the web server, using the uploaded code module as needed to service a given request from the web client.

10 10. The method as described in Claim 9 wherein the web client is a pervasive computing client.

11. The method as described in Claim 10 wherein the code module translates data into a given proprietary
15 format and serves the translated data back to the pervasive computing client.

12. The method as described in Claim 9 wherein the code module conforms to a given application programming
20 interface (API).

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13. A method operative at a web server in a computer network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a client, the request
5 identifying a code module and including an address for the code module;

if the code module is unavailable at the web server, using the address to request the code module from a given location in the computer network;

10 installing the code module at the web server; using the installed code module to process the request; and serving a response to the request back to the client.

15 14. The method as described in Claim 13 further including the step of authenticating the code module prior to the installing step.

20 15. The method as described in Claim 14 wherein the given location is a publishing server.

25 16. The method as described in Claim 15 wherein the step of authenticating includes applying a given key to information retrieved from the publishing server.

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B1 5 17. A computer program product in a computer usable medium operative in a web server, comprising:

means responsive to receipt of a request from a client for identifying a code module and an address for the code module;

means responsive to a determination that the code module is not available at the web server for using the address to request the code module from a given location in the computer network; and

10 means responsive to receipt of the code module from the given location for installing the code module at the web server for use in responding to the request.

15 18. The computer program product as described in Claim 17 further including means for authenticating the code module.

20 19. The computer program product as described in Claim 17 further including means for executing the code module to respond to the request.

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20. A computer program product in a computer usable medium operative in a web server, comprising:

means responsive to receipt of a request from a client for identifying a code module required to process the request;

means responsive to a determination that the code module is not available at the web server for requesting the client to upload the code module; and

means responsive to receipt of the code module from the client for installing the code module at the web server for use in responding to the request.

15 21. The computer program product as described in Claim 20 further including means for authenticating the code module.

20 22. The computer program product as described in Claim 20 further including means for executing the code module to respond to the request.

23. A web server operative in a computer network,
comprising:

means responsive to receipt of a request from a
client for identifying a code module and an address for
the code module;

means responsive to a determination that the code
module is not available at the web server for using the
address to request the code module from a given location
in the computer network;

means responsive to receipt of the code module from
the given location for installing the code module at the
web server for use in responding to the request; and

means for executing the code module to respond to
the request.

24. The web server as described in Claim 23 further
including means for authenticating the code module.

25. The web server as described in Claim 23 wherein
the code module is written to conform to a server API.

26. The web server as described in Claim 25 wherein
the code module is written in Java.

27. The web server as described in Claim 23 further including means for deleting a code module from the server upon a given occurrence.

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28. In a client-server computer network, the improvement comprising:

a web client having means for identifying a code module required to process a client request;

a publishing server supporting the code module at a given URL;

a web server, comprising:

10 means responsive to receipt of a request from the web client for identifying the code module and the URL for the code module;

means responsive to a determination that the code module is not available at the web server for using the URL to request the code module from the publishing server;

means responsive to receipt of the code module from the publishing server for installing the code module;

20 means operative during a web transaction for executing the code module to respond to the request; and

means for serving data back to the web client following processing by the code module.

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29. In the client-server computer network as described in Claim 28 wherein the web client is a

pervasive computing client.

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